

cost because I know that and my kids and my family and I need to have health insurance? When you are losing your job and losing your home and losing hope in the middle of a great economic downturn, it is pretty troublesome to discover, do you know what, we probably cannot even insure our family against illness and disease.

We are a better country than that. We can do something here. I understand a lot of people would like to say they want to do something but in reality do not want to do anything. And it is always easier to criticize. It is always easier to take the negative side. But the question is: Can we come together with something positive that advances the interests of this country? I hope we can. And I believe we can if we are thoughtful and work together. So that will be my hope at the end of the day.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARCS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I have spoken many times about the need for a renewed investment in scientific research and development. This includes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—or, as we say, STEM—education.

As a former engineer, I also know how important it is that research and innovation is fostered through both public and private investments. Over the years, many wonderful private organizations have been formed to promote STEM education. One of the very best is the national Achievement Rewards for College Scientists—or ARCS—Foundation, which is an excellent example of the type of investment I believe our country needs to make.

ARCS was created in 1958 by a group of women in Los Angeles following the launch of Sputnik. Like many people at that time, the women saw a need to support American technological and scientific advancement, and they decided to create a scholarship program for students to pursue degrees in science, medicine, and engineering.

Today, the all-volunteer, all-women organization has grown to 14 chapters with a national membership of over 1,500. Thanks to the efforts of the dedicated women of the ARCS Foundation, nationally more than 13,000 scholarships have been awarded since the organization's inception.

All ARCS recipients are U.S. citizens who have superior academic records and proven abilities in scientific research and development. They are recommended and selected by the deans and departmental chairs at universities that have been approved by the ARCS Foundation.

This year, the local Metropolitan Washington Chapter of ARCS awarded 20 scholarships to Ph.D. candidates and two scholarships to undergraduates:

Ilana Goldberg, Monique Koppel, and Eric Patterson from Georgetown University.

Brenton Duffy, Anna Korovina, Yi Jin, Jessica Stolee, and Bennett Walker from the George Washington University.

Marcin Balicki, Stephanie Wilson Fraley, Eatai Roth, Bridget Wildt, and Bryan Benson from Johns Hopkins University.

Brendan Casey, Stefanie Sherrill, Nathan Siwak, Seth Thomas, and Natalie Salaets from the University of Maryland.

Theresa Bankston, Thomas Bliss, Ori Fox, and Rebecca Salomon from the University of Virginia.

Scholarships were funded through contributions from ARCS members, Washington-area corporations and foundations, and various fundraising events. One hundred percent of all funds went directly to the scholars who received \$15,000 at the graduate level and \$5,000 at the undergraduate level. This year, several Washington-area corporate and foundation sponsors provided funding for full scholarships, including Lockheed Martin, American Council on Technology/Industry Advisory Council, Booz Allen Hamilton, Bristol-Myers Squibb, General Dynamics, Mars Foundation, McNichols Foundation, and Raytheon.

None of these scholarships would be possible without the dedicated women of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of ARCS. Betty Polutchko, the chapter's president, has worked tirelessly for the Foundation since she joined the local Washington chapter in 1992. Her leadership during her 2-year tenure has enabled the scholars to thrive.

I recently had the honor of meeting this incredible group of scholars and learning about the fascinating research they are conducting. These students are discovering new ways for delivering pharmaceuticals and other medical treatments, inventing processes to reduce carbon dioxide and other pollutants, engineering aerospace systems, creating microsurgical robots, and much, much more.

They are, without a doubt, the future of our Nation's leadership in science and technology, helping us to solve medical and environmental dilemmas and creating new products and systems that will continue to improve our lives and create new jobs.

Engineers and scientists have always been the world's problem solvers. They helped us to land on the moon during the space race, the period when ARCS was founded. The foundation saw the need to foster the scientific and engineering potential of our Nation then, and they continue to do so today.

The silver lining in today's financial crisis is the opportunity to shift our priorities in many positive ways. As America continues on its path toward economic recovery, we must inspire our students to address the extraordinary challenges facing our country

and the world. What better way to encourage and promote this than through programs such as ARCS. I know that, when given the opportunity, a new generation of engineers and scientists will step up to meet these challenges. Indeed, they already are.

Congratulations to the 2009–2010 ARCS Metropolitan Washington scholarship recipients.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Would the Senator withdraw his request?

Mr. KAUFMAN. I withdraw my request and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The quorum call will be vitiated without objection.

The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, first, I wish to say to the Presiding Officer, I know Senator SHERROD BROWN from Ohio and a number of us are going to be down here from the 6 to 7 o'clock period, and I am starting out here for the first 10 minutes before 6 to talk a little bit about health care reform and this whole issue that many of us have been addressing on the floor. We did this several weeks ago and we did it last week. What we are doing is talking about the whole issue of the public option and how important it is to have a public option.

The Presiding Officer from Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, has been down here with us. He has pointed out, on a number of occasions, how important it is to have a public option. But I think one of the things I would like to do today is talk a little bit about what these insurance companies are doing and where they are coming from.

Insurance companies made a point of playing nice over the first couple months of this reform process, but they revealed their true colors earlier this month when they released a series of biased, misleading reports to scare people about the impact of reform. The truth is insurance companies aren't worried about how reform will impact consumers—far from it. What they are worried about is the impact of reform on their profits.

The insurance industry has shown where it stands when it comes to health care reform. In the process, they have given us yet another reminder of why we must have a robust public option included in the final legislation. A public option is one of the only ways still on the table to keep the insurance companies honest. It will allow us to restore competition back into the market and hold companies accountable for their abusive practices. If you need further proof that insurance companies are putting profits above people, let's look at this chart and look at some of the statistics and numbers here.